



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND TEXAS MAN SENTENCED FOR COCAINE CONSPIRACY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a San Benito, Texas, man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Missouri.

Ricardo Gonzalez, 24, of San Benito, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 10 years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 4, 2003, **Gonzalez** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute at least five kilograms of cocaine from June 2001 to February 2003. Gonzalez admitted that he was working with his cousin and co-defendant, **Oscar Alberto Sanchez**, 29, of Brownsville, Texas, to arrange the sale of 10 kilograms of cocaine for \$130,000 to an unnamed Jefferson City resident.

* **Sanchez** was sentenced on Dec. 30, 2003, to 10 years in federal prison without parole. On Aug. 26, 2003, **Sanchez** pleaded guilty to the same charge. **Sanchez** admitted that he negotiated a deal with an unnamed Jefferson City resident, who traveled to Texas to trade 1.5 kilos of cocaine for a car in July 2001. **Sanchez** also admitted that he negotiated another sale of cocaine in March 2003, at which time the Jefferson City resident traveled to Texas again to purchase 10 kilos of cocaine from **Sanchez** for \$130,000.

* **Ruben Garcia Florez**, 58, of Brownsville, Texas, pleaded guilty on Feb. 26, 2003 to participating in the conspiracy to distribute cocaine. A sentencing hearing for **Florez** has not yet been scheduled.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow